

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment seeks to place this application in condition for allowance. This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/629,497 which is a continuation of Application No. 09/566,551. Application Serial No. 09/629,497 is pending.

REQUEST FOR PRIORITY

Applicants request priority to Application Serial No. 07/510,898, filed April 18, 1990, now abandoned. Applicants request such priority through Application No. 09/629,497 (pending), filed July 31, 2000; which is a continuation of Application No. 09/566,551 filed on May 8, 2000 (pending); which is a continuation of Application No. 09/213,243, filed December 17, 1998 (now U.S. Patent 6,101,152) (now U.S. Patent 6,034,918); which is a continuation of Application No. 09/196,199, filed on November 20, 1998 (now U.S. Patent 6,038,195), which is a continuation of Application No. 08/798,520, filed on February 10, 1997 (now U.S. Patent 5,841,580); which is a division of Application No. 08/448,657, filed May 24, 1995 (now U.S. Patent 5,638,334); which is a division of Application No. 08/222,646, filed on March 31, 1994 (now U.S. Patent 5,513,327); which is a continuation of Application No. 07/954,945, filed on September 30, 1992 (now U.S. Patent 5,319,755); which is a continuation of Application No. 07/510,898, filed on April 18, 1990 (now abandoned).

Accordingly, Applicants claim the benefit of the filing date of Application Serial No. 07/510,898 -- i.e., April 18, 1990. The specification has been amended to identify the continuation or related U.S. application data identified above. No new matter has been added.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In this continuation application, Applicants present new claims which set forth novel and unobvious features of Applicants' invention. Applicants submit new claims 151-180 to more fully protect the Applicants invention. No new matter has been added.

The newly submitted claims are believed to be fully supported by the specification -- see, for example, Figures 2, 4, and 10-13; page 14, line 3 to page 16, line 7; page 20, line 14 to page 21, line 20; page 22, line 11 to page 25, line 8; page 27, line 1 to page 28, line 20; page 46, line 19 to page 48, line 17; page 53, line 23 to page 55, line 19; page 71, line 14 to page 72, line 21; and page 115, lines 10-22.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants have also amended the specification to include the priority data, reflect changes to the drawings and to correct obvious spelling, typographical and grammatical errors. No new matter has been added.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

A new Abstract of the Disclosure is attached hereto. No new matter has been added.

DRAWING CHANGES

Accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is a Request to Approve Drawing Changes. Applicants have amended the drawings to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. To that end,

Applicants submit herewith new Figure 16. A copy of Applicants Request to Approve Drawing Changes is attached.

New Figure 16 is added to illustrate, among other things, access-time register(s) 173. Figure 16 illustrates one embodiment of the internal registers within each device illustrated in Figure 2. Support may be found in the specification at page 14, lines 3-21 and page 53 lines 4-21. No new matter has been added.

Applicants seek to amend Figure 10 to more fully reflect the discussion in the specification, in particular, page 55, lines 12-16 and page 58, lines 13-23. The proposed changes are indicated in red. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner approve the proposed changes to Figure 10. A new Figure 10 which incorporates the changes is also attached to the Request.

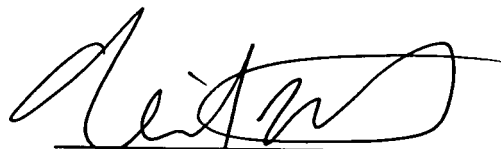
CONCLUSION

Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of this application. Applicants submit that all of the claims present patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

March 6, 2001



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